United Nations E/2001/1

Economic and Social Council

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Organizational session for 2001
29 January-2 February and 3 and 4 May 2001
Item 3 of the provisional agenda*
Basic programme of work of the Council

Proposed basic programme of work of the Council for 2001 and 2002

Note by the Secretary-General

Contents

		Page
I.	Proposed provisional agenda for the substantive session of 2001 of the Council and list of documents for each agenda item	2
II.	Questions for inclusion in the programme of work of the Council for 2002 and list of documents for each agenda item	12

* E/2001/2.

01-21022 (E) 190101

I. Proposed provisional agenda for the substantive session of 2001 of the Council and list of documents for each agenda item

1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General on proposed themes for the high-level and coordination segments of the 2002 substantive session of the Council (General Assembly resolution 50/227, annex I)

High-level segment

2. Role of the United Nations system in supporting the efforts of African countries to achieve sustainable development

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General (Council decision 2000/303)

World Economic and Social Survey, 2001

Report of the Committee for Development Policy on its third session (Council resolution 2000/34)

Report of the Open-ended Ad Hoc Working Group on the Causes of Conflict and the Promotion of Durable Peace and Sustainable Development in Africa (A/55/45, chap. IV) (General Assembly resolution 55/217)

Operational activities of the United Nations for international development cooperation segment

3. Operational activities of the United Nations for international development cooperation

(a) Follow-up to policy recommendations of the General Assembly and the Council

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the triennial policy review of operational activities for development undertaken by the United Nations system, and addenda (General Assembly resolutions 35/81 and 53/192 and Council resolutions 2000/19 and 2000/20)[1]

[1] Submitted to the General Assembly through the Council.

(b) **Reports of the Executive Boards of the United Nations Development Programme and of the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Food Programme**

Documentation

Reports of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund on its first regular session, second regular session and annual session (General Assembly resolutions 48/162, annex, and 53/192 and Council resolution 1995/51)

Annual report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund (General Assembly resolutions 48/162, annex, and 53/192 and Council resolution 1995/51)

Reports of the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund on its first regular session and annual session (General Assembly resolutions 48/162, annex, and 53/192 and Council resolution 1995/51)

Annual report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (General Assembly resolutions 48/162, annex, and 53/192 and Council resolution 1995/51)

Report of the Executive Board of the World Food Programme on its 2000 sessions (General Assembly resolutions 48/162, annex, and 53/192 and Council resolution 1995/51)

Annual report of the Executive Director of the World Food Programme (General Assembly resolutions 50/8 and 53/192 and Council resolution 1995/51)

(c) **Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries**

Documentation

Report of the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (General Assembly resolution 33/134)[1]

Coordination segment

4. **Coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations system related to the following theme: role of the United Nations in promoting development, particularly with respect to access to and transfer of knowledge and technology, especially information and communication technologies, inter alia through partnerships with relevant stakeholders, including the private sector**

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General (Council decision 2000/303)

Progress report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the substantive session of 2000 of the Council (also under item 6)

Humanitarian affairs segment

5. Special economic, humanitarian and disaster relief assistance

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the further progress in strengthening the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations (General Assembly resolutions 46/182, annex, and 55/164 and Council decision 2000/243)[1]

Oral report on assistance to the drought-stricken areas of Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, the Sudan and Uganda (Council resolution 1983/46)

General segment

6. Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the major United Nations conferences and summits

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of agreed conclusions 2000/1 of the coordination segment of the Council on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda (General Assembly resolutions 45/264 and 50/227)

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of agreed conclusions 2000/2 of the coordination segment of the Council on the integrated and coordinated conference follow-up, in particular the views expressed by functional commissions (General Assembly resolutions 45/264 and 50/227)

Progress report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the substantive session of 2000 of the Council (see A/55/3, chap. III) (also under item 4)

Report of the executive boards of the United Nations funds and programmes on the review of the common country assessment indicator frameworks (Council resolution 2000/27)

7. Coordination, programme and other questions

(a) Reports of coordination bodies

Documentation

Report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on its forty-first session

Annual overview report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination for 2000

(b) Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003

Documentation

Relevant sections of the programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003

Report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on its forty-first session

(c) **Joint United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (UNAIDS)**

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Executive Director of the Joint United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (UNAIDS) (Council resolutions 1996/47 and 1999/36)

(d) **Calendar of conferences in the economic, social and related fields**

Documentation

Draft calendar of conferences and meetings in the economic, social and related fields for 2002-2003

(e) **International cooperation in the field of informatics**

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on follow-up action taken on Council resolution 2000/28

(f) **Long-term programme of support for Haiti**

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General (Council decision 2000/235)

(g) **Malaria and diarrhoeal diseases, in particular cholera**

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Director-General of the World Health Organization (Council resolution 1998/36)

8. **Implementation of General Assembly resolutions 50/227 and 52/12 B**

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields (General Assembly resolutions 50/227 and 52/12 B and Council resolutions 1999/1 and 1999/51)

Consolidated report of the Secretary-General on the work of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council in 2001 (Council resolutions 1998/46, 1999/1 and 1999/55)

Note by the Secretary-General on the special high-level meeting of the Economic and Social Council with the Bretton Woods institutions (Council resolution 1999/51)

Report by the Secretary-General updating document E/1996/97 and Add.1 on the subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly in the economic, social and related fields

9. **Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations**

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on assistance to the Palestinian people (Council resolution 2100 (LXIII) and General Assembly resolution 55/173)[1]

Report of the President of the Council on consultations held with the Chairman of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (Council resolution 2000/30)

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Council resolution 2000/30

10. **Regional cooperation**

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on regional cooperation (Council decision 1979/1), including the report of the Secretary-General on a subject relating to interregional cooperation of common interest to all regions (Council resolution 1982/50 and Council decision 1982/174)

Note by the Secretary-General on a Europe-Africa permanent link through the Strait of Gibraltar (Council resolution 1999/37)

Summary of the economic survey of Europe, 2000

Summary of the survey of economic and social conditions in Africa, 2000

Summary of the survey of economic and social conditions in Asia and the Pacific, 2001

Summary of the economic survey of Latin America and the Caribbean, 2000

Summary of economic and social developments in the region of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, 2000

11. **Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan**

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Council resolution 2000/31 and General Assembly resolution 55/209[1]

12. **Non-governmental organizations**

Documentation

Report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations (Council resolutions 3 (II) and 1996/31 and Council decision 1995/304)

13. Economic and environmental questions

(a) Sustainable development

Documentation

Report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its ninth session (Council decisions 1993/207 and 2000/227)

Report of the Committee for Development Policy on its third session (Council resolutions 1079 (XXXIX), 1625 (LI) and 2000/34)

Report of the Secretary-General on the progress achieved in the implementation of paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 46/206 and on recommendations on additional measures that can be taken to ensure a smooth transition from least developed country status for graduating countries (Council resolution 2000/34)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on the benefits derived by the least developed countries on the basis of their inclusion in the list of the least developed countries and on the practical impact of the measures in favour of least developed countries, including an assessment of the implications of graduation for the Maldives (Council resolution 2000/34)

(b) Science and technology for development

Documentation

Report of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on its fifth session (Council decisions 1992/218 and 1999/274)

Report of the Secretary-General on strengthening the coordinating role of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (General Assembly resolution 55/185)[1]

(c) Statistics

Documentation

Report of the Statistical Commission on its thirty-second session (Council resolutions 8 (I), 8 (II), 1566 (L) and 1999/8 and Council decision 2000/228)

(d) Human settlements

Documentation

Report of the Commission on Human Settlements on its eighteenth session (General Assembly resolution 32/162)[1]

(e) Environment

Documentation

Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its twenty-first session (General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII))[1]

Report of the Secretary-General on products harmful to health and the environment (General Assembly resolution 39/229)[1]

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 55/197 on international cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon[1]

(f) Women in development

Documentation

Relevant sections of the report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its forty-fifth session

(g) Transport of dangerous goods

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals on its twenty-first session and on the implementation of Council resolution 1999/62 (Council resolutions 724 C (XXVIII), 1488 (XLVIII),1983/7 and 1999/65)

(h) International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (General Assembly resolution 54/219)[1]

(i) Population and development

Documentation

Report of the Commission on Population and Development on its thirty-fourth session (General Assembly resolution 48/128 and Council decisions 1995/209 and 2000/233)

(j) Energy and natural resources for development

Documentation

Report of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources for Development on its second session (Council resolution 1998/46, annex I, and Council decisions 1999/276 and 1999/277)

(k) Public administration and development

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the five-year assessment of the progress made in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 50/225 (General Assembly resolution 53/201)[1]

(l) Cartography

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the Seventh United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas (Council decision 1997/292)

(m) International cooperation in tax matters

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters at its tenth meeting (Council resolutions 1273 (XLIII) and 1765 (LIV) and Council decision 2000/232)

(n) Forum on Forests

Documentation

Report of the United Nations Forum on Forests on its first session (Council resolution 2000/35)

(o) Assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions (A/55/295 and Add.1) (Council resolution 2000/32 and General Assembly resolution 55/157)

Note by the Secretary-General on assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions (Council resolution 2000/32 and General Assembly resolution 55/157)

(p) Global Code of Ethics for Tourism

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat

14. Social and human rights questions

(a) Advancement of women

Documentation

Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (article 21 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women)[1]

Report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its forty-fifth session (Council resolutions 11 (II) and 1147 (XLI) and Council decision 2000/237)

Report of the Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (Council resolution 1998 (LX))

Report of the Secretary-General on a new draft system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women, 2002-2005 (Council resolutions 1996/34 and 1999/16)

Report of the Secretary-General on follow-up to and progress in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (General Assembly resolutions 50/203 and 55/71)

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Council resolution 2000/24 on the revitalization and strengthening of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women

(b) Social development

Documentation

Report of the Commission for Social Development on its thirty-ninth session, including suggestions and recommendations to further the contribution of volunteering to social development (Council resolutions 10 (III) and 1996/7, Council decision 2000/238 and General Assembly resolution 55/57)

Report of the Secretary-General on a proposal for a United Nations literacy decade (General Assembly resolution 54/122)[1]

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 54/123 on cooperatives in social development[1]

Report of the Secretary-General on the appropriate ways and means to observe the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2004 (General Assembly resolution 54/124)[1]

Report of the Secretary-General on the world social situation (General Assembly resolution 44/56)[1]

(c) Crime prevention and criminal justice

Documentation

Report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on its tenth session (Council resolution 1992/1 and decision 2000/239)

Report of the open-ended expert group containing draft terms of reference for the negotiation of the future international legal instrument against corruption (General Assembly resolution 55/61)[2]

(d) Narcotic drugs

Documentation

Report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its forty-fourth session (Council resolution 9 (I) and Council decision 2000/240)

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[2] The open-ended expert group will meet in Vienna from 30 July to 3 August 2001.

Report of the International Narcotics Control Board (article 15 of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961; article 18 of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances, 1971; and article 23 of the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances)

(e) United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Documentation

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees[1]

Oral report on assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa (General Assembly resolution 55/77)

(f) Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General (General Assembly resolutions 48/91 and 55/84)

(g) Human rights

Documentation

Report of the Human Rights Committee (article 45 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights)[1]

Report of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Council resolutions 1988 (LX) and 1985/17)

Report of the Commission on Human Rights on its fifty-seventh session (Council resolutions 5 (I) and 9 (II))

Question to be addressed

Human rights in Afghanistan (General Assembly resolution 55/119)

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (General Assembly resolution 48/141)[1]

II. Questions for inclusion in the programme of work of the Council for 2002 and list of documents for each agenda item[3]

Substantive session of 2002

A. High-level segment

[Theme/themes to be selected]

World Economic and Social Survey, 2002

B. Operational activities of the United Nations for international development cooperation segment

Operational activities of the United Nations for international development cooperation:

[Theme/themes to be selected for consideration at the high-level meeting of the segment]

Follow-up to policy recommendations of the General Assembly

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum: impact of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework in the field of operational activities (General Assembly resolution 53/192)

Reports of the Executive Boards of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Food Programme

Reports of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund on its first regular session, second regular session and annual session (General Assembly resolutions 48/162, annex, 53/192 and Council resolution 1995/51)

Annual report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund (General Assembly resolutions 48/162, annex, and 53/192 and Council resolution 1995/51)

Reports of the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund on its first regular session and annual session (General Assembly resolutions 48/162, annex, and 53/192 and Council resolution 1995/51)

Annual report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (General Assembly resolutions 48/162, annex, and 53/192 and Council resolution 1995/51)

[3] It is expected that the following list of questions will be revised in the light of the Council's deliberations on the proposed programme of work for 2001.

Report of the Executive Board of the World Food Programme on its 2001 sessions (General Assembly resolutions 48/162, annex, and 53/192 and Council resolution 1995/51)

Annual report of the Executive Director of the World Food Programme (General Assembly resolutions 50/8 and 53/192 and Council resolution 1995/51)

C. Coordination segment

Coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations system related to the following themes:

[Theme/themes to be selected]

D. Humanitarian affairs segment

Special economic, humanitarian and disaster relief assistance

Report of the Secretary-General on the coordination of humanitarian emergency assistance of the United Nations (General Assembly resolution 46/182, annex)[1]

Report of the Secretary-General on assistance to Mozambique (General Assembly resolution 55/167)[1]

Oral report on assistance to the drought-stricken areas of Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, the Sudan and Uganda (Council resolution 1983/46)

E. General segment

Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the major United Nations conferences and summits

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the agreed conclusions of the 2001 coordination segment of the Council (General Assembly resolution 45/264, annex)

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Council resolutions 1999/55, section II and 2000/27 on basic indicators for the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits at all levels

Coordination, programme and other questions

Reports of coordination bodies

Report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on its forty-second session

Annual overview report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination for 2001

Proposed medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005

Relevant chapters of the proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005

Report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on its forty-second session

Tobacco or health

Report of the Secretary-General on the continuing work of the Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Task Force on Tobacco Control (Council decision 2000/236)

Implementation of General Assembly resolutions 50/227 and 52/12 B

Report of the Secretary-General on restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields (Council resolution 1999/1)

Consolidated report of the Secretary-General on the work of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council in 2002 (Council resolution 1998/46)

Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations

Report of the Secretary-General on assistance to the Palestinian people (Council resolution 2100 (LXIII))[1]

Regional cooperation

Report of the Secretary-General on regional cooperation (Council decision 1979/1), including the report of the Secretary-General on a subject relating to interregional cooperation of common interest to all regions (Council resolution 1982/50 and decision 1982/174)

Summaries of the surveys of economic conditions in the five regions prepared by the regional commissions (Council resolution 1724 (LIII))

Non-governmental organizations

Report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations (Council resolutions 3 (II) and 1996/31 and Council decision 1995/304)

Economic and environmental questions

Sustainable development

Report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its tenth session (Council decision 1993/207)

Report of the Committee for Development Policy on its fourth session (Council resolutions 1079 (XXXIX), 1625 (LI) and 2000/34)

Public administration and finance

Report of the Secretary-General on the Sixteenth Meeting of Experts on the United Nations Programme in Public Administration and Finance (Council resolution 1199 (XLII) and decision 2000/231)

Population and development

Report of the Commission on Population and Development on its thirty-fifth session (General Assembly resolution 49/128, para. 25, and Council decision 1995/209)

Statistics

Report of the Statistical Commission on its thirty-third session (Council resolutions 1768 (LIV) and 1999/8)

Social and human rights questions

Advancement of women

Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (article 21 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women)[1]

Report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its forty-sixth session (Council resolutions 11 (II) and 1147 (XLI))

Report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to and progress in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and on the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (General Assembly resolutions 50/203 and 55/71)

Report of the Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (Council resolution 1998 (LX))

Social development

Report of the Commission for Social Development on its fortieth session (Council resolutions 10 (III) and 1996/7)

Crime prevention and criminal justice

Report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on its eleventh session (Council resolution 1992/1)

Narcotic drugs

Report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its forty-fifth session (Council resolution 9 (I))

Report of the International Narcotics Control Board (article 15 of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961; article 18 of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances, 1971; and article 23 of the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances)

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees[1]

Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination

Report of the Secretary-General (General Assembly resolution 48/91)

Human rights

Report of the Commission on Human Rights on its fifty-eighth session (Council resolutions 5 (I) and 9 (II))

Report of the Human Rights Committee (article 45 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights)[1]

Report of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Council resolutions 1988 (LX) and 1985/17)

Report of the Committee on the Rights of the Child (General Assembly resolution 44/25, annex)[1]

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (General Assembly resolution 48/141)[1]

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Item 2 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Provisional agenda

1. Election of the Bureau.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Basic programme of work of the Council.
4. Elections, nominations and confirmations.

Annotations

1. Election of the Bureau

Rule 18 of the rules of procedure of the Council provides that, each year at the commencement of its 1st meeting, the Council shall elect a President and four Vice-Presidents from among the representatives of its members. The membership of the Council in 2001 is given in the annex below. According to the rotation of the office of President among the regional groups, the President for 2001 should be the representative of a member of the African States group. The four Vice-Presidents of the Council shall be elected on the basis of equitable geographical distribution from the other four regional groups.

The President and Vice-Presidents shall constitute the Bureau. The Council, upon the recommendation of the President, shall decide on the special responsibilities of each Vice-President.

Pursuant to Council resolution 1988/77, a meeting of the Council will be held on 29 January 2001 for the election of the Bureau.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Rule 13 of the rules of procedure of the Council provides that, at the beginning of each session, after the election of the Bureau when required under rule 18, the Council shall adopt the agenda for the session.

01-21122 (E) 190101

The present provisional agenda has been prepared in conformity with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 48/162 and with other relevant legislative decisions, including, in particular, the provisions of Assembly resolution 50/227.

Implementation of General Assembly resolutions 50/227 and 52/12 B

The Council, at its substantive session of 2000, decided to defer consideration of this question (agenda item 8) to its resumed substantive session of 2000. The Council did not consider the item at its resumed session.

Tenth Meeting of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters

By its decision 2000/232, the Council approved the holding of the Tenth Meeting of the Group of Experts in New York in the first half of 2001; however, the Group of Experts has requested a change of venue to Geneva and a change of dates to 10 to 14 September 2001.

Fifth session of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development

By its decision 2000/204, the Council approved the holding of the fifth session of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development in Geneva from 21 to 25 May 2001; however, a request has been made to change the dates to 28 May to 1 June 2001.

Recommendations made by the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources for Development at its second session

The Council's attention is drawn to the recommendations contained in the report of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources for Development on its second session.

Documentation

Extract from the report of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources for Development on its second session (E/2001/L.1)

3. Basic programme of work of the Council

In accordance with rule 8 of the rules of procedure of the Council, the Council shall draw up, at its organizational session, with the assistance of the Secretary-General, its basic programme of work.

The Council will have before it the proposed basic programme of work of the Council for 2001 and 2002 prepared by the Secretariat in accordance with the relevant decisions of the Council and of the General Assembly.

The Council's attention is drawn to General Assembly resolution 52/12 B by which the Assembly decided to create a humanitarian affairs segment of the Council. At its organizational session for 1999, the Council decided, in its decision 1999/208, to select a theme for the humanitarian affairs segment of its substantive session of 1999. The Council may wish to follow a similar procedure for its humanitarian affairs segment in 2001.

Pursuant to Council resolution 1988/77 on the revitalization of the Council, the President, prior to the organizational session, and with the cooperation of the other members of the Bureau, will arrange for consultations with members of the Council on the draft programme of work and provisional agenda prepared by the Secretary-General and make proposals thereon for consideration by the Council.

Global Code of Ethics for Tourism

In accordance with rule 9 of the rules of procedure of the Council, the Secretary-General has proposed the inclusion under item 13 of the provisional agenda for the substantive session of 2001 (Economic and environmental questions) of an additional sub-item entitled "Global Code of Ethics for Tourism".

Documentation

Proposed basic programme of work for the Council for 2001 and 2002 (E/2001/1)

Note by the Secretariat on the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism (E/2001/3)

4. Elections, nominations and confirmations

The Council will hold elections to fill postponed vacancies in its subsidiary bodies. The Council will also confirm the representatives on functional commissions of the Council nominated by Governments since the close of the resumed substantive session of 2000.

Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

The Council will be called upon to endorse the recommendations of the Secretary-General on the membership of the reconfigured Committee.

Annex

Members of the Economic and Social Council for 2001

	Term expires on 31 December
Andorra	2003
Angola	2002
Argentina	2003
Austria	2002
Bahrain	2002
Benin	2002
Bolivia	2001
Brazil	2003
Bulgaria	2001
Burkina Faso	2002
Cameroon	2002
Canada	2001
China	2001
Costa Rica	2002
Croatia	2002
Cuba	2002
Czech Republic	2001
Democratic Republic of the Congo	2001
Denmark	2001
Egypt	2003
Ethiopia	2003
Fiji	2002
France	2002
Georgia	2003
Germany	2002
Guinea-Bissau	2001
Honduras	2001
Indonesia	2001
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	2003
Italy	2003
Japan	2002
Malta	2002
Mexico	2002
Morocco	2001
Nepal	2003
Netherlands	2003
Nigeria	2003

	Term expires on 31 December
Norway	2001
Pakistan	2003
Peru	2003
Portugal	2002
Republic of Korea	2003
Romania	2003
Russian Federation	2001
Rwanda	2001
Saudi Arabia	2001
South Africa	2003
Sudan	2002
Suriname	2002
Syrian Arab Republic	2001
Uganda	2003
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	2001
United States of America	2003
Venezuela	2001

United Nations E/2001/3

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Global Code of Ethics for Tourism

Note by the Secretariat

In accordance with rule 9 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council, the Secretary-General has proposed the inclusion under item 13 of the provisional agenda for the substantive session of 2001 (Economic and environmental questions) of an additional sub-item entitled "Global Code of Ethics for Tourism". A letter dated 13 December 2000 from the Secretary-General of the World Tourism Organization to the Secretary-General of the United Nations concerning this issue (see annex) and an explanatory memorandum (see enclosure) are attached for the consideration of the Council.

* E/2001/2.

01-21128 (E) 190101

Annex

Letter dated 13 December 2000 from the Secretary-General of the World Tourism Association to the Secretary General of the United Nations

I am pleased to inform you that the World Tourism Organization is presently working on the implementation provisions for the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism. It was adopted by consensus by all member States participating in the thirteenth session of our General Assembly (Santiago, Chile, 1 October 1999) irrespective of the differences in culture, development levels, political systems or religion that may separate them.

The decision to develop the Code was the result of ample consultations among our member States as well as with the private sector and non-governmental organizations. It conforms to the relevant international conventions and declarations, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other United Nations instruments, and also takes stock of the previous numerous initiatives undertaken to this effect in the field of tourism.

The resulting document is conceived as an instrument of conciliation. Therefore, in addition to setting forth the explanatory preamble and pointing out the ethical principles which should govern tourism development, the Code provides for international cooperation and a mechanism for its implementation.

At its seventh session (New York, 16-20 April 1999), the Commission on sustainable Development welcomed this project and invited the World Tourism Organization to consider informed major groups' participation, as appropriate, in the development, implementation and monitoring of its Global Code of Ethics for Tourism.

With these objectives in mind, we would appreciate it if the Code could be included as an item in the provisional agenda of the substantive session of 2001 of the Economic and Social Council and subsequently considered by the United Nations in 2001 with a view to obtaining its universal recognition and dissemination.

Enclosed please find an explanatory memorandum introducing the Code in more detail.

(*Signed*) Francesco **Frangialli**

Enclosure

Explanatory memorandum

Global Code of Ethics for Tourism

On 1 October 1999, the General Assembly of the World Tourism Organization (WTO), held in Santiago, Chile, approved the draft «Global Code of Ethics for Tourism» previously submitted to it for consideration.

Since the adoption of the historical *Manila Declaration on World Tourism* in 1980 under the auspices of WTO, a great many instruments - charters, codes and declarations - have marked the trajectory of world tourism. The purpose of the new Code, as stated in the preamble, is to combine a series of objects and ideas into a complex whole and to enhance them by drawing on «new considerations relative to the development of our societies and thus provide a frame of reference for stakeholders in world tourism at the dawn of the next century and millennium».

Some will doubtless regard, if not with derision, at least with scepticism, the ambition to establish both a frame of reference and a game rule common to all tourism countries and to all tourism development partners. But the facts speak for themselves: the new Code has fulfilled a real ambition and one cannot remain indifferent to the fact that it has been unanimously adopted by the 107 countries which took part in our Assembly, out of the 130 which make up the Organization, irrespective of the differences in culture, development levels, political systems and religion that may separate them.

Four considerations denote both the ambition and the scope of this fundamental text.

First, its preparation, which was characterized by a huge concerted effort.

The decision to prepare a new instrument committing the international tourism community was taken at the WTO General Assembly meeting in Istanbul in 1997. A special committee was formed for this purpose on which countries as different as Algeria, Brazil, Ecuador, Egypt, Iran, Malaysia and Portugal were represented in addition to the Holy See having enjoyed observer status in this group.

The process continued during the first half of 1999, involving broad consultations with WTO's six Regional Commissions, its Executive Council and external industry partners, labour organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). In April 1999, the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development, at its seventh session in New York and having been duly informed of these endeavours, expressed a lively interest in the steps that were being taken to this end. Between May and July, a great many Member States further enhanced the draft with their direct contributions, which naturally denoted differing degrees of sensitivity between those in favour of what one might term a certain «right to interfere in tourism» and those with a more long-standing tradition of accepting the prerogatives of sovereign States.

The final draft, prepared by the Secretary-General and his team at the beginning of last summer, tried to integrate as far as possible all these contributions in the text, while at the same time preserving its unanimity of inspiration and coherence. So much fresh blood was infused into the text that the number of pages doubled with respect to the original version!

The aim to seek as broad an exchange of views as possible seems to have been met insofar as the debate engaged in by the General Assembly in the autumn of 1999, albeit informal, did not challenge the main thrust of the text. With the passing of time, consultations and the preparation and drafting of the text were concluded relatively quickly - in less than a year - considering the scope of the exercise and the scale of the final result.

The second feature of the Code concerns the basic principles that underpin it and the concerted effort it makes to combine a series of objects and ideas into a complex whole.

The Code obviously maintains the continuity of the major declarations that, under the aegis of the United Nations System, have marked the development of international society and the progress human rights have made since the end of the Second World War: the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948, the International Covenants of 1966 on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and on Civil and Political Rights, the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage of 1972, the Convention on the Rights of the Child of 1989, the Rio Declaration on the Environment and Development of 1992, the Convention on Biodiversity of 1995, along with the multiple instruments adopted under the aegis of the International Labour Organization.

But the aim of this Code is, if not to round off, at least to break new ground with regard to these texts which, prestigious as they may be, are generally limited to guaranteeing individual rights, defending certain groups and protecting the natural environment and the heritage.

The Global Code of Ethics for Tourism wants to go one step further. Without challenging the progressive heightening of universal awareness as evinced in the aforementioned texts, the Code resolutely conforms to a determination to promote «the market economy, private enterprise and free trade», with a view to enabling the world tourism industry «to optimize its beneficial effects on the creation of wealth and employment».

One paragraph in the preamble deserves to be reproduced in full. It sums up the process of combining objects and ideas into a complex whole from which the Code draws its inspiration and its ambition to go one better:

«Also firmly convinced that, provided a number of principles and a certain number of rules are observed, responsible and sustainable tourism is by no means incompatible with the growing liberalization of the conditions governing trade in services and under whose aegis the enterprises of this sector operate, and that it is possible to reconcile in this sector economy and ecology, environment and development, openness to international trade and protection of social and cultural identities».

The classic structure of the text is geared towards clarity rather than originality.

The preamble, of which various elements have already been cited, stems from a construction which has already proved its worth.

The «We, Members of the World Tourism Organization gathered for the General Assembly at Santiago, Chile, on this first day of October 1999» formula with which the Preamble kicks off, is reminiscent of, even a veiled reference to the famous «We, peoples of the United Nations...» formula used in the San Francisco Charter.

On the basis of the considerations it develops and the references it makes, the Preamble concludes that these representatives of the world tourism industry:

«affirm the right to tourism and the freedom of tourist movements,

state [their] wish to promote an equitable, responsible and sustainable world tourism order, whose benefits will be shared by all sectors of society in the context of an open and liberalized international economy, and

solemnly adopt to these ends the principles of the Global Code of Ethics of Tourism».

These principles are embodied in the body of the text following the preamble and which breaks down into ten simply-worded articles. In this Decalogue, the first nine articles lay down strong principles relative to «tourism's contribution to mutual understanding and respect between peoples and societies» (1), «tourism as a vehicle for individual and collective fulfilment» (2), «tourism, a factor of sustainable development» (3), «tourism, a user of the cultural heritage of mankind and a contributor to its enhancement» (4), «tourism, a beneficial activity for host countries and communities» (5), the «obligations of stakeholders in tourism development» (6), the «right to tourism» (7), the «liberty of tourist movements» (8), and the «rights of the workers and entrepreneurs in the tourism industry» (9).

Without going into detail relative to these nine articles, it should be noted that the general tone is one of a balanced affirmation of the respective rights and obligations of all the different partners who make up the tourism industry, starting with the symmetrical and complementary rules set for visitors and hosts alike.

The wording of these principles is not all new; some of the key ideas can be found in the Manila Declaration and in the Tourism Bill of Rights and Tourist Code adopted by WTO at its Assembly in Sofia in 1985.

Suffice it to say that in certain areas, today's approach goes one step further than yesterday's. Hence, beyond the «the right to freedom of travel and tourism» stated in Manila, «the prospect of direct and personal access to the discovery and enjoyment of the planet's resources» is recognized as «a right equally open to all the world's inhabitants».

Some subjects are broached for the first time in a declaration of this nature. Some have a cultural, environmental or social component, such as the total ban on child exploitation in the tourism industry, the responsibility of the press and the media, the right of tourists to practise their religions during their travels, the value of ecotourism and cultural tourism, the importance of conducting impact studies and of associating host communities with big development projects, and the adoption of a specific status for seasonal workers. Other principles have more economic connotations, such as the need for readily understandable contracts and consumer information, the benefits of staggering in time and space tourist flows, the conduct required in the event of crisis situations, the encouragement of the North-South economic partnership between receiving and generating countries, the role of small and medium-sized enterprises and the special responsibility of multinational enterprises in the sector.

The tenth and final article of the Code is of a different nature to the nine that precede it.

It stipulates that «the public and private stakeholders in tourism development should cooperate in the implementation» of the principles thus established and that they «should recognize the role of international institutions, among which the World Tourism Organization ranks first» and - this is new - of «non-governmental organizations with competence in the field of tourism promotion and development». It states that these stakeholders should «demonstrate their intention to refer any disputes concerning the application or interpretation of the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism for conciliation to an impartial third body known as the World Committee on Tourism Ethics».

The existence of a juridical - if not jurisdictional - mechanism for implementing the Code is the fourth and final point worth examining.

This is an original, voluntary and flexible conciliation – not arbitration - mechanism, the design of which owes a great deal to Professor Alain Pellet, a member and former chairman of the United Nations International Law Commission and the legal adviser to WTO.

Hence Mr. Pellet's words to the effect that «it must be acknowledged that instances of friction or dispute among the actors in tourism development are redoubtably numerous and their regulation particularly delicate on account of their often transnational nature. In these conditions, a supple, swift and inexpensive conciliation mechanism can prove itself to be extremely useful».

In this respect, work has not been altogether concluded. The Santiago General Assembly has not conclusively adopted *the Protocol of Implementation* that establishes this mechanism.

The existence of such a mechanism for settling disputes is a principle that has nonetheless been established, even if certain adjustments, essentially of a legal nature, remain to be made. The Assembly has adopted the broad outlines that will govern this mechanism. It has, moreover, wasted no time in inviting governments and other actors in tourism development «to regulate their conduct on the basis of the principles set out in the Code». It has urged the States to draw inspiration from the Code in their laws and the private sector to introduce its contents in its regulations and professional practices.

It would indeed be a remarkable achievement if tomorrow, a conflict between a big multinational enterprise and a host community or NGO relative to the social or environmental repercussions of the creation of a new tourism resort in a developing country, for example, could be settled on good terms on the basis of a set of principles that are freely accepted by everyone concerned.

This would be the aim of the aforementioned Protocol of Implementation, which will finally be adopted at WTO's next General Assembly in the autumn of 2001.

The independent body that will represent all the players in the tourism industry - the World Committee on Tourism Ethics – will be established and will be responsible for the interpretation, application, evaluation and development of the provisions of the Code. It should be operational by the end of 2001.

In short, the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism clearly responds to more than a succession of good intentions or pious hopes. It is a tool that will be placed in the hands of the partners in the tourism industry forthwith and one that they may use, jointly and severally, to build sustainable, balanced and responsible tourism.

The Code represents a step forward for world tourism and, to a certain extent, for international law. In this field, as in many others, tourism is blazing a trail. This is indeed a heartening prospect.

(*Signed*) Francesco **Frangialli**
Secretary-General of the World Tourism Organization
Madrid, December 2000

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Letter dated 3 November 2000 from the Permanent Representative of New Zealand to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have been instructed by my Government to advise you that New Zealand would like to apply for admission to the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

New Zealand has been an observer to the Executive Committee for many years and is a strong supporter of the work of UNHCR. Consistent with our engagement in global burden-sharing regarding refugee issues, we have taken the decision that we would like to engage more formally in the Executive Committee.

It is my understanding that, subject to your favourable consideration of our application, the Council would consider a request to increase by one the number of members of the Executive Committee. If this is agreeable, the Council could then "elect" New Zealand to be the new member of the Executive Committee.

We are looking forward to strengthening our contribution to this important aspect of the work of the United Nations through our Executive Committee membership and hope that you will consider our application favourably.

(*Signed*) Michael **Powles**
Permanent Representative

* E/2001/2.

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